



Department of Justice

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Eastern District of Texas

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BEAUMONT KIDNAPPERS INDICTED BY FEDERAL GRAND JURY

BEAUMONT, TX—United States Attorney John L. Ratcliffe announced that a federal grand jury has returned a 9-count indictment today charging three Beaumont men with federal gun and drug violations in the Eastern District of Texas.

ROBERT EARL WILSON, 33, ANTHONY LIONEL JONES, 32, and JEFFERY JAMON GRANT, 32, all of Beaumont, have been indicted for possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug transaction, possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute "crack" cocaine, and attempted possession with intent to distribute "crack" cocaine.

According to the indictment, Wilson, Jones and Grant conspired to use telephones, guns and automobiles to kidnap a Beaumont man on November 30, 2007 for the purpose of obtaining money and "crack" cocaine.

If convicted, Wilson, Jones and Grant each face up to life in prison and a fine not to exceed \$4 million. If convicted of possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, upon a showing that the defendant has been previously convicted by any court for a violent felony or serious drug offense, or both, committed on different occasions from one another, the minimum punishment for that defendant is fifteen years imprisonment. Further, under the federal "three-strikes" law, if convicted of possessing a firearm in furtherance of a drug transaction, upon a showing that the defendant has previously been convicted on separate occasions of two or more serious violent felonies or one serious violent felony and one serious drug offense, that defendant shall be sentenced to mandatory life imprisonment.

This case is being investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives Special Agent Jason Bean and prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney John Ross.

It is important to note that an indictment should not be considered as evidence of guilt and that all persons charged with a crime are presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

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